

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Official Action mailed December 11, 2006. A Petition for Two Month Extension of Time, with Fee, is filed concurrently. Accordingly, this response is timely.

Claims 1-4, 13, 15, 17, 26, 29-42 and 45 – 49 are currently pending with claims 34-37 having been withdrawn from consideration.

The thorough review of the application and prior art by the Examiner are noted with appreciation.

1. Various references to claims in the specification have been removed.
2. A replacement abstract has been provided.
3. The rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite for use of the term "inert" is respectfully traversed since the term is well-known and is explained in the specification at page 2, lines 13-16.

4. The rejection of various claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based upon U.S. Patent No. 2,559,969 (Kennedy), U.S. Patent No. 3,932,681, U.S. Patent No. 6,521,541 (Rossi), and/or U.S. Patent No. 4,477,486 (Boaz, which was a §102/§103 type of rejection) is respectfully traversed. In this regard it is noted that Claims 1 and 38 are the pending non-withdrawn independent claims. Prior Claim 16 (which previously depended from Claim 1) and prior Claim 43 (which previously depended from Claim 38) were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on any of these three Patents. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the language from Claim 16 (and the language from Claim 18) and independent Claim 38 has been amended to include the language from Claim 43 (and the language from Claim 44). Accordingly, the present independent claims, and all dependent claims, are

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submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102 is requested.

5. All rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully traversed as moot. As Applicants understand these rejections, ¶ 15 of the Office Action did not reject Claims 18 or 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103; ¶ 16 of the Office Action did not reject Claims 18 or 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103; ¶ 17 of the Office Action did not reject Claims 18 or 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103; ¶ 18 of the Office Action did not reject Claims 18 or 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103; and ¶ 19 of the Office Action did not reject Claims 18 or 44 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Since the language of Claims 18 and 44 have been included in the two independent Claims 1 and 38, respectively (in addition to the language from Claims 16 and 43 as previously explained), and since all pending, non-withdrawn claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claims 1 or 38, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Accordingly reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

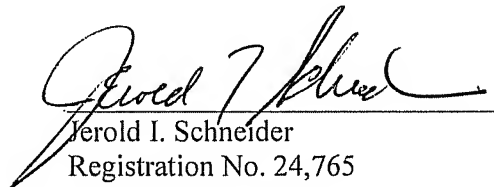
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If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Dated: May 10, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerold I. Schneider", is written over a horizontal line.

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